

14 Years, 6,840 Consecutive Votes

Perfect Voting Record Continues

Since beginning his service in the General Assembly on January 4, 1995, Senator Roraback has cast 6,840 votes* and has been present for every vote taken in his fourteen legislative sessions. After serving six years in the House of Representatives and eight years in the Senate, Senator Roraback is the only member of the 187-member General Assembly who can claim this record.

*Legislative rules have required Senator Roraback to abstain from six votes taken in the fourteen years he has served.

Dear Friend,

The 2008 session of the Connecticut General Assembly, my eighth year as your State Senator, was highlighted by the passage of several important legislative initiatives summarized in this report. I am pleased that many ideas which came from individuals in my district became law this year.

As your State Senator, I try to keep you informed about the work your state government is doing. I hope you will find this report interesting and informative. I also encourage you to sign up for periodic e-mail alerts which provide additional updates on legislative activities in Hartford.

To sign up for these alerts, please visit www.SenatorRoraback.cga.ct.gov, type your e-mail address in the “Stay Informed” box, and click “Submit.”

If you have questions about any of the legislation discussed in this report or about any other matter concerning state government, never hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent you in Hartford.

Sincerely,

Andrew
Andrew Roraback

STATE SENATOR

Andrew
Roraback



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North Canaan ★ Salisbury ★ Sharon ★ Torrington ★ Warren ★ Washington ★ Winsted

STATE SENATOR
Andrew Roraback



STATE SENATOR
Andrew
Roraback
★★★ 30th District ★★★



2008 Legislative Report

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Sharon ★ Torrington ★ Warren ★ Washington ★ Winsted

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Mayor Pat Murphy discusses economic development issues with Andrew when he recently visited New Milford.

Creating Jobs, Growing Our Economy

Small businesses are the backbone of our state’s economy and the key to our long-term economic security. That is why I am working with Governor Rell and small business owners from across Connecticut to implement policies that encourage entrepreneurship and job creation. Our Jobs Growth Initiative includes:

- Expanding the Job Creation Tax Credit**

Currently, this benefit is available only to larger corporations. We are working to extend the credit, worth 60% of each new hire’s state withholding tax, to all businesses and apply it to every new job created in Connecticut.

- Repealing the Business Entity Tax**

Every Connecticut business pays this \$250 annual tax regardless of profitability. Small businesses and independent contractors including freelance writers, electricians and plumbers are hurt most by this tax. We think it is unfair, and our proposal will abolish it.

- Bringing Business Sense to Regulation**

Costly and redundant state regulations inhibit job growth. We are working to eliminate bureaucratic red tape by demanding a cost/benefit analysis of all business regulations. Any regulation that is not providing a quantifiable benefit to society will be eliminated.

- Attracting Next Generation Industries**

We believe Connecticut can capitalize on its greatest strength – a highly skilled and educated workforce – to become a national leader in emerging technologies. We are proposing tax incentives to help create good paying jobs for middle-class families throughout our state.

Volunteers Score Legislative Victory

In recent years, several career firefighters who work in urban communities, but reside in the 30th District, have contacted me to express their wish to become active members in their hometown volunteer fire departments. Unfortunately, they were prohibited from doing so because of the terms of the contracts that had been negotiated by their Unions with the cities which employed them.

Public Act 08–131 changes that. It provides that no contract may ban paid firefighters from serving in volunteer fire companies during their off-duty time. This common-sense legislation will help strengthen our volunteer fire departments, allowing them to benefit from the skills and expertise of career firefighters who want to give back to their local communities.



Andrew joins Pam and Jack Baker of Warren at the Culture Mix in Goshen sponsored by the Northwest Connecticut Arts Council on May 22nd.



Andrew enjoys the beautiful gardens at Coe Park in Torrington with a young friend.

Widows of Connecticut Veterans to Receive War Time Service Medals

In 2005, the General Assembly commissioned a medal to be proudly bestowed on Connecticut veterans who have served our nation in time of war. The number of medals struck was equal to the number of living wartime veterans at that time, but the law establishing the medal dictated that they could not be awarded after a veteran had died.

In the fall of 2007, my constituent, Barbara Kuhn of Torrington, who is the widow of a World War II Veteran, Alfred Kuhn, contacted me asking for the medal on behalf of her late husband who had passed away earlier in the year.

Alfred Kuhn served in the United States Army from 1943 to 1946. He was a truck driver and heavy equipment operator in World War II campaigns in Northern France, the Rhineland, and Central Europe. He also served as a Technician Fifth Grade in Battery B of the 398th Coast Artillery Battalion, finishing his service in 1946 at Fort Devens, Massachusetts.

Barbara, Alfred’s wife of 61 years, still lives in the Torrington home her husband built in 1947. Last year, when she asked the Department of Veterans Affairs for the service medal her late husband had earned, she learned, regrettably, that under current law her request could not be honored because he was no longer living.

Barbara contacted me and because of her and others in the same situation, Public Act 08–87 was passed. The new law will allow these medals to be given to the widow or widower of any wartime service veteran who was living when the legislature established the program in 2005.



Andrew congratulates Frank Johnson at a ceremony held on June 17th to honor Brookfield’s Wartime Veterans.



Andrew addresses the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters at their annual legislative strategy session.

New Law Protects Preserved Property Owned by Land Trusts from Being Taxed

There are more than 115 land trusts which have preserved in excess of 62,000 acres of open space in Connecticut. Protecting these lands is critical to safeguarding our unique quality of life, rural character and healthy environment.

In March of 2008, a judge in Bridgeport ruled that the City of Bridgeport could legally force the Aspetuck Land Trust to pay property taxes on undeveloped preserved land it owned on an island in Long Island Sound. This decision had potentially disastrous financial consequences for local land trusts which lack the resources to pay taxes on the land they own and protect. I was pleased to work on a new law which reverses the court decision and makes it clear going forward that land trust property will not be subject to taxation.



Andrew joins residents of Cornwall and Falls Village in celebrating the State’s \$3.3 million investment to purchase the 308-acre DeLuca property.

Making a Difference for Our Local Communities

In March, the following Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grants were awarded to 30th District towns:

Brookfield	completion of a water distribution system that will serve the Route 7/Commercial corridor	\$500,000
Canaan	restoration and rehabilitation of the former Third Falls Village Methodist Church into the Falls Village Community and Cultural Center	\$200,000
Cornwall	implementation of a business façade and traffic calming program	\$150,000
Goshen	replacement of the dam at Tyler Lake	\$400,000
Kent	renovation and repair of the historic Swift House	\$92,000
Litchfield	renovation of the town’s community playscape and upgrades to Litchfield Town Beach	\$210,000
Morris	design and construction of additional improvements to the Morris Transfer Station	\$400,000
New Milford	construction of road and sidewalk repairs or replacement on Church Street, Whittlesey Avenue, and Elm Street	\$276,025
Sharon	construction of a new dog pound	\$305,000
Washington	revitalization of the town beach at Lake Waramaug	\$300,000
Winchester	completion of pedestrian and civic improvements to the “Village Green” also known as East End Park	\$370,000